

Camp Opposite Fredericksburg

Dec 17, 1862

My Dear Jane

Hear we are once more in our old camp. It is somewhat changed, but we were very glad to get back. You must excuse me for being so long in writing. I sent word to Johnny every opportunity and he promised to write you as long as he knew how we were. I received two letters from you while on the field, but of course could not answer them. We left our knapsacks behind when we crossed the river - took nothing but blankets again. Our crackers were brought over every night.

It was a sad affair for some. We were put into a very dangerous position as was supposed at the time, viz. to support short range battery. But providentially we remained a day and night without being attacked by infantry and only half a dozen shells were thrown at us by the artillery - one of them struck us. On Friday we were shelled, but not a round here hit. The 20th Mich suffers some. They lay in line beside us, and one of their men was struck and fell over me. He was only a boy. Another of them had his head shot off. One of the shells hit in the center of our company but did not explode. I have been so busy since I came back that I could not write & must be brief today as we have to clean up for inspection. Our clothes are muddy & our guns rusty. We slept on the mud or grass or wherever we were - once in the middle of the street our guns at our side and we work pretty hard. Will try to answer your letters in a few days if we remain here. The weather is getting colder.

Johnny's shirt came and he likes it well. Join me in thanks to God for his goodness in protecting & sparing such an unprofitable & undeserving servant through the past. It certainly was unexpected that we all would cross the river again.

You will get a better description of the battle in the paper, than I can give. I only saw the operations on the night under Sumner; on the left under Franklin was the hardest fighting but we could not see it for a hill.

Your affectionately
W Taylor